

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CU-04 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 071579

R 240723Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 508

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: MORE PRESS CLOSURES

REF: A. JAKARTA 0920

B. JAKARTA 0918

SUMMARY: AUTHORITIES WITHDREW PRINTING PERMITS OF TWO MORE PUBLICATIONS JAN 24-FORMER SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) ORGAN "PEDOMAN"(NOW PARTLY OWNED BY IBNU SUTOWO) AND WEEKLY "EKSPRES" CONTROLLED BY GENERAL ALI PURTOPO. END SUMMARY

1. SECURTIY AUTHORITIES (KOPKAMTIB) ANNOUNCED PRINTING PERMITS OF WEEKLY MAGAZINE "EKSPRES" AND DAILY "PEDOMAN" WITHDREW EFFECTIVE JAN 24. THIS BRINGS TO TOTAL OF TEN JAKARTA PUBLICATIONS SUSPENDED SINCE THE JAN 15-16 RIOTS. REASONS FOR SHUTDOWN SAME AS THOSE GIVEN PREVIOUSLY-VIOLATION OF "MAIN GUIDELINES OF STATE POLICY", INCITING POPULATION TO DISORDER AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCREDITING NWH LNAL LEADERSHIP. NO FURTHER

DETAILS GIVEN REGARDING ALLEGED INFRINGEMENTS OF
LAW. ACCORDING JAKARTA PRESS, SURABAYA DAILY
"SULUH BERITA" ALSO CLOSED DOWN.

2. LATEST CLOSURES ARE INTRIGUING TO SAY THE
LEAST SINCE "EKPRES" IS PART OF ALI MURTOPO-
CONTROLLED PRESS AND RECENTLY PUBLISHED MUCH-DISCUSSED
ARTICLE ATTACKING TECHNOCRATS AND RESURRECTING
"BERKELEY MAFIA" MYTH(SEE REF B). "PEDOMAN"
IS ORGAN OF OLD SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) SEVERAL OF
WHOSE FORMER LEADERS AMONG THOSE DETAINED UNDER
SUSPICION OF INCITING PRE-RIOT PROTEST, BUT CONTROLLING
SHARE OF "PEDOMAN" STOCK RECENTLY ACQUIRED BY PERTAMINA'S
IBNU SUTOWO. (EXACT PERCENTAGE OF SUTOWO OWNERSHIP
NOT KNOWN).

3. MANY OBSERVERS WILL NO DOUBT LINK CLOSURES TO
REPORTS OF PURTOPO-SUMITRO POWER STRUGGLE (REF B).
HOWEVER AUTHORITIES HAVE MAINTAINED THAT CLOSURES
ARE RELATED TO COVERAGE EXTENDING OVER PAST MONTH
OR MORE, AND IT IS AT LEAST POSSIBLE THAT THEY HAVE
BEEN MADE ON STRICTLY SECURITY GROUNDS, EG, FOR
"INFLAMATORY" QUOTATION OF STUDENT STATEMENTS, ETC.

4. ACCORDING "SINAR HARAPAN," FOREIGN MINISTER(AND
OLD JOURNALIST) MALIK EXPRESSED HOPE THAT
"BRIDLING" OF PRESS WIL NOT LAST LONG. JOURNALIST'S
ASSOCIATION (PWI) HAS ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT
CLOSURES WILL BE TEMPORARY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
1966 PRESS LAW, AND NOT "KILL" THE PUBLICATIONS
INVOLVED. PWI ANNOUNCED THAT TOGETHER WITH
PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION (SPS) IT WOULD SEND JOINT
DELEGATION TO MEET COMMANDER OF KOPKAMTIB (GENERAL
SUMITRO) TO DISCUSS THE CLOSURES AND "SEEK A WAY
OUT."

5. COMMENT: INDONESIAN JOURNALISTIC WORLD IS IN
STATE OF SOME SHOCK AND WHILE NO ONE KNOWS HOW
LONG THE CLOSURES WILL LAST, PESSIMISM AND
APPREHENSION PREVAILS AT THIS TIME.
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6. CORRECTION: IN PARA 1 REF A NAME OF WEEKLY
PUBLICATION SHOULD READ PEMUDA INDONESIA, NOT
PEMUDA MAHASISWA. NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS
CLOSED DOWN AT TIME REF A SENT WAS EIGHT RPT
EIGHT NOT SEVEN.
GALBRAITH

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Message Attributes

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